

Alaska Health Care Commission

Strategy for Transforming Health and Health Care

The Alaska Health Care Commission is charged with fostering the development of a statewide plan for making high quality health care more available, accessible and affordable; and a statewide strategy for improving the health of all Alaskans. First convened during 2009 under a Governor's Administrative Order, the Commission was established in state law the following year and reconvened in October 2010. The Commission has recommended the following strategy to the Governor and Legislature as a 5-year "road map" to support transformation of Alaska's health system so that it attains the above stated goals, and is using this strategy as a framework for continued planning, analysis and recommendation development during 2011-2014.

- I. Develop a vision for the future of health and health care in Alaska**
- II. Accurately diagnose problems in the health care system and health status**
 - A. Describe Alaska's health care system**
 - B. Identify changes affecting the health care market**
 - C. Understand health care cost drivers and variations in quality**
 - D. Understand population health status and disparities**
- III. Build the foundation of a strong, stable health system**
 - E. Strengthen the health information infrastructure**
 - F. Strengthen the health workforce**
 - G. Provide leadership for statewide health system improvement**
- IV. Design policies to enhance the consumer's role in health and health care**
 - H. Innovate to improve quality, affordability and access to health care**
 - I. Support Alaskans to lead healthy lifestyles and create cultures of wellness**
- V. Measure progress**
 - J. Track implementation of commission recommendations**
 - K. Measure progress of improvements in health and health care**

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2011 Priorities

II. Accurately diagnose problems in the health care system and health status

- C. Understand health care cost drivers and variations in quality**
 - Study health care spending levels and trends by payer and service category
 - Study health care pricing and reimbursement
- D. Understand population health status and disparities**
 - Identify Alaska's top health challenges and priorities

III. Build the foundation of a strong, stable health system

- E. Strengthen the health information infrastructure**
 - Track status of electronic health record and health information exchange deployment
 - Explore need for on-line community-based health information system
 - Identify gaps in health information needed to support health and health care decision-making
- F. Strengthen the health workforce**
 - Track Alaska Health Workforce Coalition planning activities

IV. Design policies to enhance the consumer's role in health and health care

- H. Innovate to improve quality, affordability and access to health care**
 - Track and support development of patient-centered medical homes in Alaska
 - Identify Alaska's long term care system issues
 - Identify Alaska's trauma system issues
 - Study payment reform strategies
 - Price and quality transparency
 - Price bundling by episode of care or diagnosis
 - Multi-payer approach
 - Leverage state purchasing power

V. Measure progress

- J. Track implementation of commission recommendations**
- K. Measure progress of improvements in health and health care**
 - Establish indicator set (including benchmarks and targets)

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Current Information & Recommendations

Recommendations of the Commission passed in prior years stand as current recommendations until changed or withdrawn. Below are a brief summary of information and recommendations developed by the Commission during 2009 and the fall of 2010.

KEY:

- Information produced by the Commission
 - ✚ Current recommendations
 - ✓ Former recommendations that have been adopted and implemented
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I. Develop a vision for the future of health and health care in Alaska

- The Commission's Vision, Goals and Values are included in the 2009 Commission Report

II. Accurately diagnose problems in the health care system and health status

A. Describe Alaska's health care system

- Primer on Alaska's health care system and discussion of weaknesses in the system is included in the 2009 Commission Report

B. Identify changes affecting the health care market





- Overview of 2010 Affordable Care Act and status of implementation in Alaska is included in the 2010 Commission Report
- Economic impact of Affordable Care Act in Alaska study conducted for the Commission by the Institute for Social & Economic Research/UAA

III. Build the foundation of a strong, stable health system


E. Strengthen the health information infrastructure

- ✚ Support health information technology (electronic health records, health information exchange, and telemedicine) adoption and utilization
- ✚ Ensure health information technology is utilized to protect the public's health
- ✚ Ensure data available through the health information exchange is used to improve health care
- ✚ Ensure privacy and security of health information
- ✚ Facilitate broadband telecommunications service access
- ✚ Improve reimbursement for telemedicine-delivered services

F. Develop the health workforce




-  Make health workforce development a priority, and support coordinated planning
-  Strengthen the pipeline of future health care workers
-  Support workforce innovation and adaptation as care models evolve
-  Increase the supply of primary care physicians
 - Support educational loan repayment and financial incentives for recruitment
 - Expand WWAMI Alaska medical school seats as resources allow
 - Support primary care residency program development & operation
 - Continue support for family medicine residency
 - Support development of pediatric and psychiatric residencies
 - Support planning for primary care internal medicine residency

G. Provide leadership for statewide health system improvement


- ✓ Establish permanent state health planning and policy body in statute
-  Invest in health policy infrastructure needed to respond to national reform

IV. Design policies to enhance the consumer's role in health and health care

H. Innovate to improve quality, affordability and access to health care

-  Foster development of the patient-centered medical home model in Alaska
-  Encourage the use of evidence-based medicine in clinical and policy decisions
-  Address barriers to primary care access for Alaska's Medicare enrollees
 - Increase the supply of primary care providers
 - Remove barriers to development of safety-net clinics
 - Improve Medicare reimbursement and administrative policies
 - Facilitate development of a PACE (Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) Program in Alaska (Medicare/Medicaid waiver program)

I. Support Alaskans to lead healthy lifestyles and create cultures of wellness

-  Investigate and support strategies to create cultures of wellness in any setting

V. Measure progress

J. Track implementation of commission recommendations

- Status of implementation of 2009 recommendations is included in the 2010 Commission Report